

EDITORIAL

Quest in its journey is publishing its second issue, which is mainly dedicated to the cause of women. This introspective journal has sought to take a holistic approach to women's issues. Empirical studies and contributions to the understanding of women's causes and outcomes have found place in the current issue of *Quest: Multidisciplinary Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences*. There has been an attempt to generate awareness regarding cyber crime, taking into consideration that women are the worst victim of it. It is well accepted that patriarchy is responsible for crime against women and also by women; the current issue has tried to explore the causes and effects of criminalization of women. The patriarchal culture essentially identifies women as a biological entity and reproductive instruments. In this issue the matter has been looked upon from a unique perception. Everyone knows that women, especially from poverty-ridden section of society, need to bear burden of climate; *Quest* has tried to identify the issues related to the effects of global environmental degradation on women. Women's rights around the world are important indicators to understand global well-being. Women often work more than men, yet are paid less; gender discrimination affects women labourers throughout their lifetime; the current issue has attempted to go deeper into the problem.

For the sixth consecutive year Iceland has come out best in the World Economic Forum's gender-gap index, which examines disparities between men and women in terms of political empowerment, economic opportunity, health and education. It scored 0.86 on an index in which one denotes perfect equality. The Nordic countries all did well, taking the top five positions of the 142 countries in the ranking. Some emerging economies also have high gender equality.

Nicaragua ranked sixth; Rwanda, included for the first time this year, was placed seventh overall and first in Sub-Saharan Africa, thanks to a particularly small gap between men and women in the political-empowerment category. In terms of world scenario India holds 114th in its position regarding gender equality. Despite many successes in empowering women, numerous issues still exist in all areas of life, ranging from the cultural, political to the economic. Women and girls are often the ones that suffer the most poverty. Gender equality furthers the cause of child survival and development for all of society, so the importance of women's rights and gender equality should not be undermined.

Quest: Multidisciplinary Journal of Humanities & Social Sciences in this issue attempts to explore these issues further, with an expectation to eliciting comments and review from the peers in different academic institutions. The editorial team conveys its gratitude to all the contributors; the team is thankful to the Principal of the College and other members of the governing body, as well as to all the staff of the college.